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AGRICULTURE PROFILE

ABBOTSFORD DISTRICT

Province of British Columbia
Ministry of Agriculture and Food

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BRITISH COLUMBIA AGRICULTURAL REPORTING REGIONS

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This series of agricultural profiles was produced by the Policy Development and Economics Division, British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

The report is descriptive, and includes statistical information from a variety of sources. It is designed primarily as an information base for use by Ministry of Agriculture and Food staff in district goal identification and program planning.

The authors acknowledge with gratitude the assistance and co-operation received from individuals and organizations both public and private during the preparation of this report.

This report is one of a series covering the eighteen District Agriculturists' Office Areas of British Columbia.

Abbotsford
Chilliwack
Cloverdale
Courtenay
Cranbrook
Creston
Dawson Creek
Duncan
Fort St. John
Kamloops
Oliver
Prince George
Quesnel
Salmon Arm
Smithers
Vanderhoof
Vernon
Williams Lake

AGRICULTURAL PROFILE - ABBOTSFORD DISTRICT

PREFACE

BACKGROUND

The British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture and Food has divided the Province into eighteen agricultural districts, each served by a District Agriculturist. Profiles of these districts were first developed in 1980 under the Canada-British Columbia Agriculture and Rural Development Subsidiary Agreement (A.R.D.S.A).

The availability of new data from the 1981 Census of Agriculture resulted in a need for major revision. The present profile is an updated version reflecting the Census information. At the same time, the profiles have been expanded to include information not previously available, and many of the tables have been restructured to show a more detailed breakdown of different variables by farm sales.

CAVEAT

As the agricultural districts were designed to meet the needs of the farming community, and as their boundaries were developed to ensure efficient use of the District Agriculturist's time, the boundaries do not necessarily coincide with those of the Census Divisions or Subdivisions. However, statistical data from the Census of Agriculture is currently only available for Census Divisions and Subdivisions. An attempt was made, both in the original profiles and in these updates, to choose census divisions and subdivisions which most closely represent the agricultural districts. In this profile all references to the Abbotsford District are to the area covered by census divisions 11-Central-Fraser Valley and 13-Dewdney Aloutte.

STRUCTURE

The profiles have been designed to provide a comprehensive source of statistical information on each agricultural district. They have been divided into three sections: an overview of the district, a description of the farms and farmers of the district, and a description of the farm products of the district.

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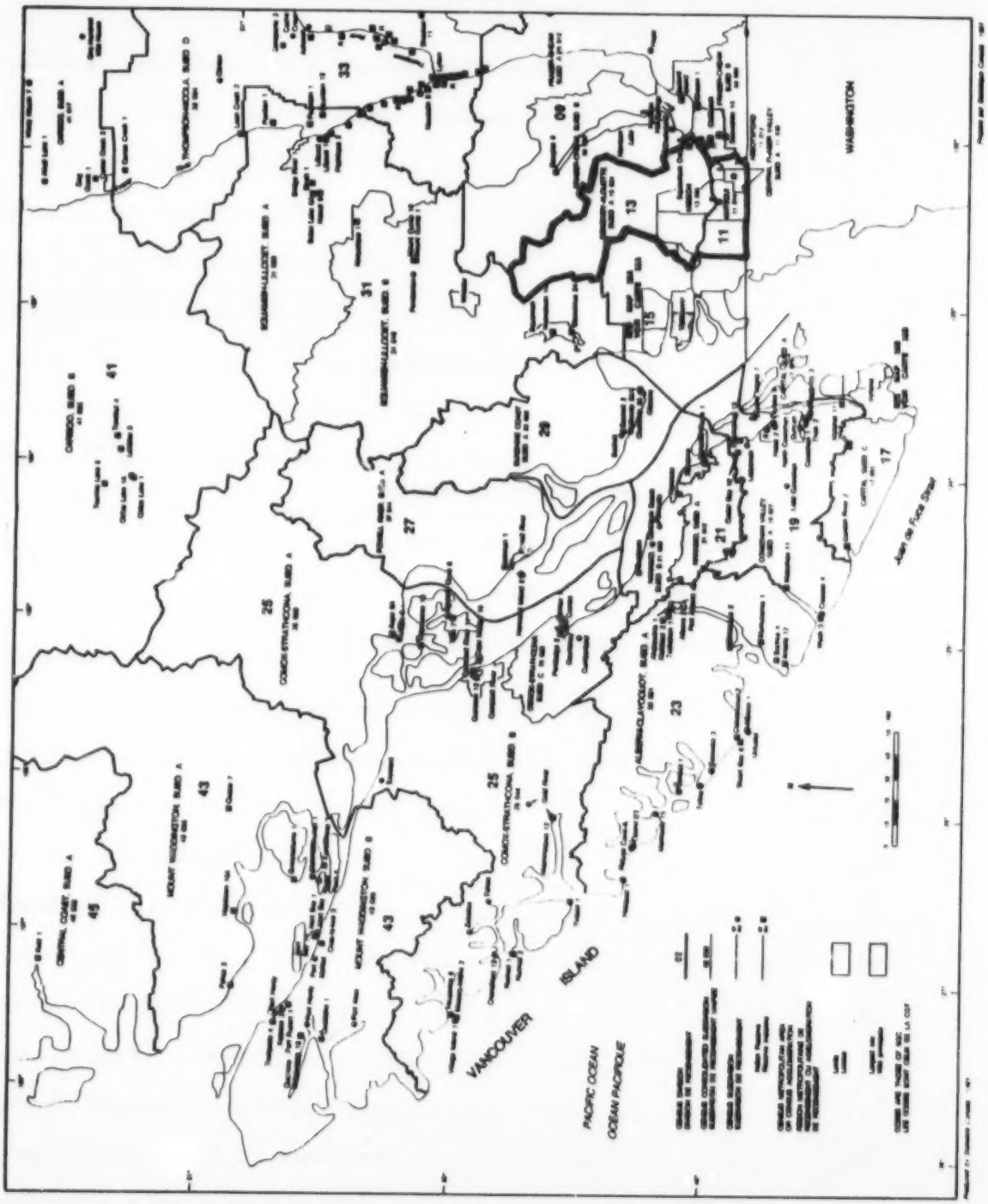
ABBOTSFORD AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT



OVERVIEW: ABBOTSFORD DISTRICT OFFICE AREA

The Abbotsford Agricultural District covers approximately 385,000 hectares in the South Coastal Agricultural Reporting Region. The district has several advantages for agricultural production including fertile soils, a moderate coastal climate and proximity to processing facilities and a large market.

Census figures indicate a 1981 population of 177,014 an increase of 26 percent over 1976 levels. Total experienced labour force totals 82,665, with the majority employed in the manufacturing, personal services, trade and construction sectors.

Agricultural activity in the district is varied, and involves both hobby and commercial operations. In 1981, beef production was the primary activity of 32 percent of farms, dairy, poultry and miscellaneous specialty accounted for 13, 15, and 17 percent respectively. Dairying was the primary activity of 39 percent of holdings with sales greater than $50,000 in 1981. Farm cash receipts totalled $255.6 million in 1981, 28 percent of the provincial total. Dairy products, poultry/eggs and hogs accounted for 29, 33 and 8.4 percent of receipts respectively.

During the mid-1970's there was an eastward movement of farms within the Fraser Valley, primarily due to the stronger pressures and higher land prices nearer Vancouver. However, this movement is stabilizing as prices and pressures in the eastern sector of the Valley are equalizing with those nearer Vancouver. Also, farm operations moving eastward within the Valley often require larger holdings to maintain production levels, as land productivity generally decreases away from the delta. In 1983, farmland prices within the district were approximately $16,000 per hectare, lower than other areas in the Fraser Valley.

The Abbotsford District accounts for 51,091 hectares in agricultural holdings, approximately 2.4 percent of the provincial total. The Agricultural Land Commission had designated 78,470 hectares as potentially arable. The total number of farms enumerated in 1981 was 3,496. Farms are smaller than the provincial average in Abbotsford where 95 percent of holdings are less than 53 hectares. Average farm size is 15 hectares compared to 109 hectares for the province as a whole. In 1981, 80 percent of farmland was classified as improved compared with 43.4 percent for the province.

Abbotsford has potential for the development of a variety of small-scale production including ducks, geese, eggs, rabbits, vegetables and greenhouse crops. Establishment of these enterprises would be hastened by the development of highly focussed marketing channels such as farmer's markets, cottage processing industries and direct local sales to retailers. Such opportunities for small scale producers would encourage better utilization of many small holdings.

TABLE 1

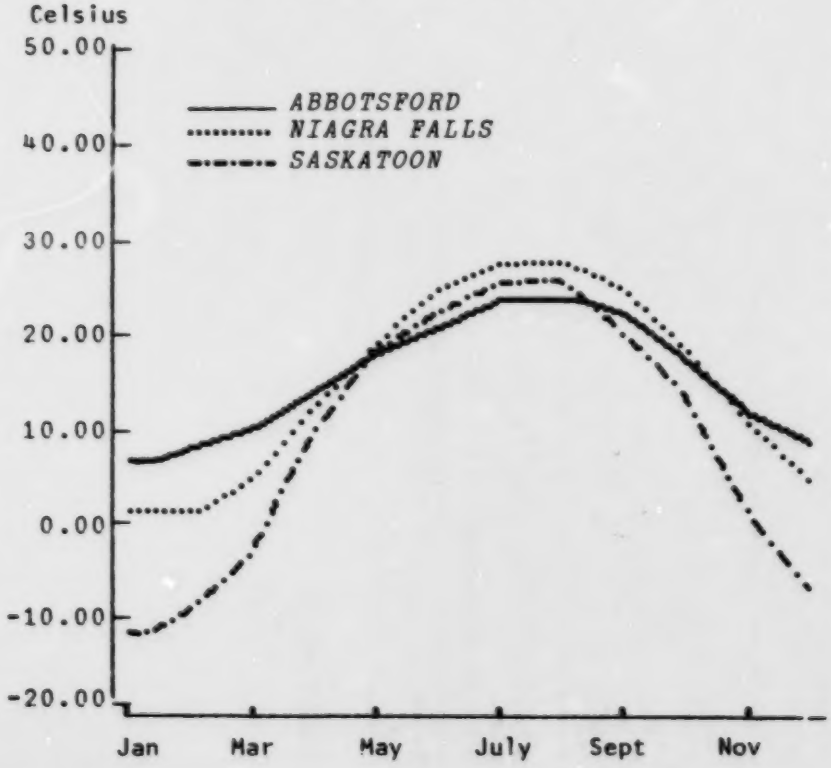
CLIMATIC DATA

ABBOTSFORD/NIAGARA FALLS/SASKATOON COMPARED

	ABBOTSFORD	NIAGARA FALLS	SASKATOON
Growing Degree Days	1,958.0	2,472.7	1,619.9
Frost Free Period	174	172	117
Total Precipitation	1,513.0	942.3	348.8

Source: Canadian Climate Normals 1951-1980
Temperature and Precipitation Normals 1951-1980
Environment Canada

MEAN DAILY MAXIMUM TEMPERATURES COMPARED



SOUTH COASTAL ALR AREAS
MOUNT WADDINGTON
COAST DISTRICT
POWELL RIVER
SQUA
RUPERT
COMOX-STRATHCONA
PACIFIC
OCEAN
ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT
SUNSHINE COAST
DEWDNEY-ALOUETTE
FRASER-CHILLIWACK
GREATER VANCOUVER
NANAIMO
COWICHAN VALLEY
CENTRAL FRASER VALLEY
CAPITAL
LEGEND
Agriculture Land Reserve Areas
Isolated Agriculture Land Reserve Pockets
Regional District Boundaries

TABLE 2
ABBOTSFORD AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
AGRICULTURAL LAND RESERVE AREAS IN HECTARES
SUMMARY TABLE: LAND CAPABILITY CLASS BY PRESENT LAND USE

Present Land Use

	1	2	3	4	1-4	5	6	7	Water	Total	%Total
Forages and Grains	90	5,510	13,130	12,750	31,480	2,790	630	250	0	35,150	45
Horticulture	0	510	3,120	2,190	4,850	330	50	10	0	5,240	7
Grassland and Pasture	0	570	2,410	3,830	6,810	3,240	1,190	470	0	11,710	15
Forest	0	590	4,600	8,560	13,750	5,040	2,300	1,260	0	22,350	28
Non-Productive Lands	0	450	750	1,060	2,260	780	410	200	370	4,020	5
Total	90	7,630	24,010	27,420	59,150	12,180	4,580	2,190	370	78,470	
% Total	0	10	31	35	75	15	6	3	1		

Source: B.C. Land Inventory Report, Vol. 1, 2
Talisman Project Inc., 1980.

SOUTH COASTAL LAND CAPABILITY

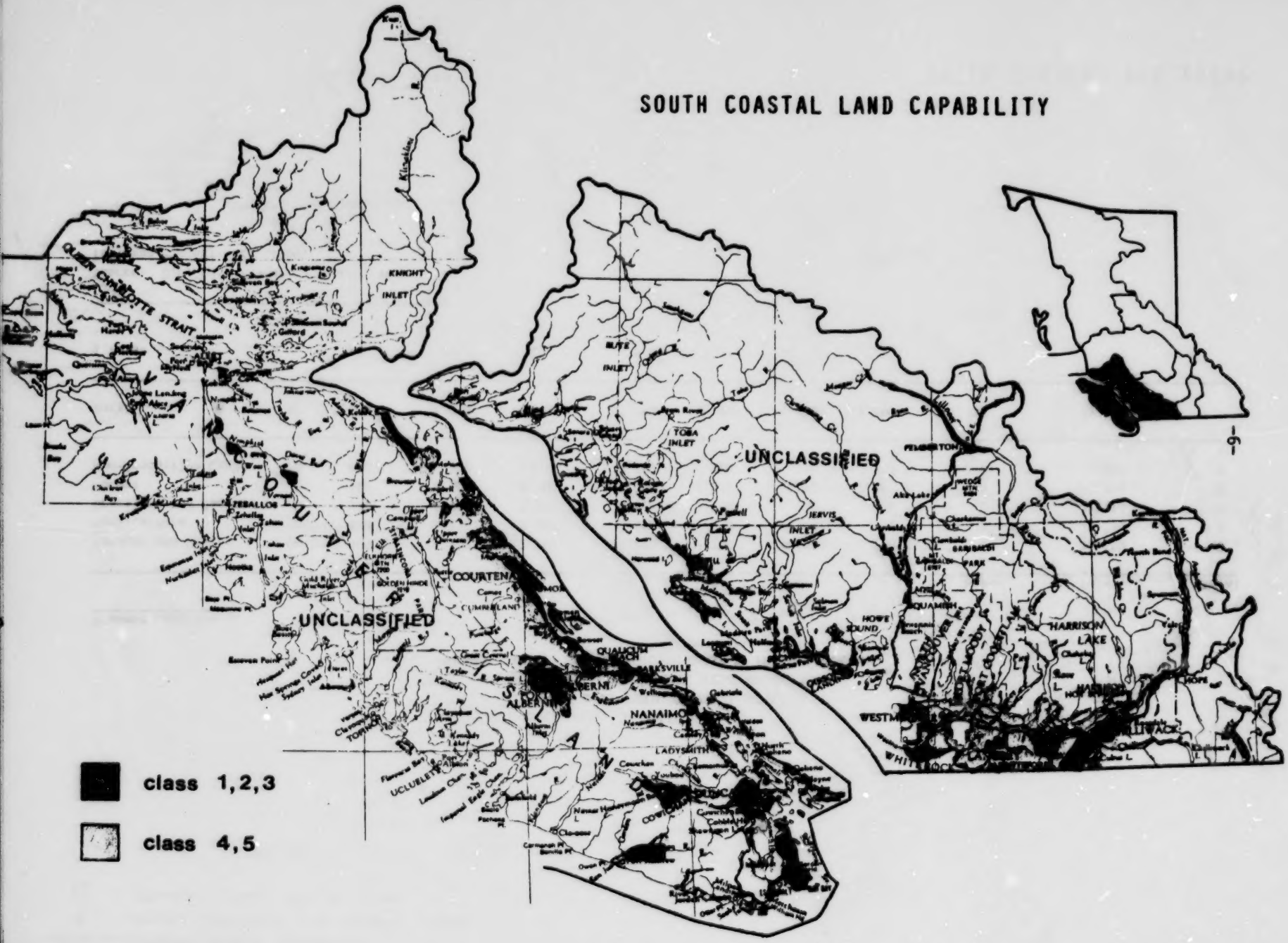


TABLE 3

SOUTH COASTAL AGRICULTURAL REPORTING REGION

AGRICULTURE LAND CAPABILITY

Class	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Water Surface	Other*	Total
Hectares:										
Unimproved	6,073	61,583	84,984	117,681	257,206	72,854	818,677	1,275,901	7,601,844	10,296,804
Improved**	16,239	88,366	103,724	158,330	160,943	72,811	818,645	1,275,901	7,601,844	10,296,802
Percent:										
Unimproved	0.06	0.60	0.83	1.14	2.50	0.71	7.95	12.39	73.83	100.0
Improved**	0.16	0.86	1.01	1.54	1.56	0.71	7.95	12.39	73.83	100.0

*Other includes unclassified urban areas, national parks and unmapped portions of the district.
**Rating if land unit were irrigated and/or drained.

Source: Agriculture Land Capacity in British Columbia, ARDA Project #89077, 1975.

TABLE 4
LOWER MAINLAND
AGRICULTURE AND GRAZING LEASE DATA IN HECTARES

Lease Type: Grazing

Year	No. of Leases	Area
1983	0	-
1982	3	17.37
1981	0	-
1980	0	-
1980-1983	3	17.37
TOTAL	8	187.3

Lease Type: Extensive Agriculture

1983	0	-
1982	0	-
1981	0	-
1980	1	16.19
1980-1983	1	16.19
TOTAL	7	246.9

Lease Type: Intensive Agriculture

1983	3	16.48
1982	2	17.9
1981	2	17.43
1980	2	3.5
1980-1983	9	55.29
TOTAL	14	158.46

Total lease area in Vancouver Region: 1980-1983: 88.85
Total lease area in Vancouver Region: 592.64

Source: B.C. Crown Land: Range and Cultivated Land Inventory, B.C.M.A. 1984

TABLE 5

USE OF LAND BY FARM SALES CLASS ABBOTSFORD, 1981-IN HECTARES

	$250-1599	$1600-2495	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
Number of Farms	571	530	540	370	531	954	3,496
Total Area of Farms	2,815	2,730	3,598	3,778	8,460	29,710	51,091
Total Improved Land Area	2,072	1,977	2,713	2,784	6,455	24,815	40,815
Total Area Under Crop	927	823	1,073	1,237	3,532	18,337	25,929
Area of Improved Pasture	796	823	1,272	1,304	2,075	3,952	10,222
Area in Summer Fallow	44	35	49	26	302	1,024	1,481
Other Improved Land Area	304	296	319	217	546	1,501	3,184
Total Unimproved Land Area	748	761	885	996	2,008	4,897	10,296
Woodland Area	237	288	319	312	977	705	2,837
Other Unimproved Land Area	512	473	567	685	1,032	4,191	7,459

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture
December 1983

TABLE 6

ABBOTSFORD AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT:

NUMBER OF FARMS BY FARM SALES CLASS

SALES	$-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10,000+
1971	2,016	229	199	946
1976	2,014	261	101	923
1981	1,101	540	370	1,485

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 7

ABBOTSFORD AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

FARMS CLASSIFIED BY PRODUCT TYPE AND SALES -1981 CENSUS

	$250-1599	$1600-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
Dairy	14	11	13	10	42	373	463
Cattle	190	254	273	184	171	56	1,128
Hogs	12	8	9	9	14	57	109
Poultry	89	70	51	24	29	246	509
Wheat	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Small Grains	1	1	-	-	1	-	3
Other Field Crops	45	26	21	12	6	1	111
Fruits and Vegetables	62	30	39	49	130	75	385
Miscellaneous Specialty	101	82	87	64	120	137	591
Livestock Combination	18	26	21	8	8	2	83
Other Combinations	39	22	26	10	9	7	113
TOTAL	571	530	540	370	531	954	3,496

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 8

ABBOTSFORD AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

FARMS CLASSIFIED BY SIZE AND SALES-1981 CENSUS

	$250-1599	$1600-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
1-2 Acres	31	7	8	4	13	8	71
3-9 Acres	320	300	230	118	115	186	1,269
10-69 Acres	213	217	286	224	336	423	1,699
70-129 Acres	3	3	13	15	41	203	278
130-179 Acres	2	2	3	6	14	63	90
180-239 Acres	-	-	-	-	4	35	39
240-399 Acres	2	1	-	2	4	30	39
400-559 Acres	-	-	-	1	1	1	3
560-759 Acres	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
760-1119 Acres	-	-	-	-	2	1	3
1120-1599 Acres	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
1600 Acres and Over	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
TOTAL	571	530	540	370	531	954	3,496

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

ABBOTSFORD: AGRICULTURAL RESOURCE BASE

Farm Taxfiler's Income

The district has a relatively high proportion of high income operations. In 1981, 42 percent of farms had sales greater than $10,000 compared to 40 percent for B.C. as a whole. Average gross farm income reported was $48,800 in 1981 compared to $39,959 provincially. Almost all taxfilers in the Abbotsford District reported some off farm income, with 59 percent reporting wages and salaries.

Agricultural Employment

Over 85 percent of reported days off farm work included non agricultural labour, approximately 74 percent of off farm work was reported from holdings with sales less than $10,000. Farm operators hired an average 37 weeks of farm labour, compared with 24 weeks for the province as a whole. In 1981, farms with sales greater than $50,000 provided 84 percent of agricultural employment.

Agricultural Land Development Act

Between 1976 and 1981 the number of agricultural holdings has increased 3 percent in the Abbotsford District. Land clearing under A.L.D.A. totalled 409 hectares during this period, and accounted for 20 percent of expenditures. A much greater proportion of funds has gone to irrigation development and drainage, combined these accounted for 62 percent of expenditures from 1976-81. Operators report using 23,000 tonnes of fertilizer on 10,000 hectares of agricultural land in 1981.

Farm Capital

The total nominal value of farm capital increased from $707 million in 1976 to $1.8 billion in 1981. The per farm average rose from $209,000 to $500,000 over the same period. The proportion of investment in land and buildings, machinery and livestock has remained relatively constant since 1976. In 1981, total farm capital per hectare was $34,260, ten times the provincial average.

Age of Operators

The age distribution of farmers remained relatively constant over the period 1976-81 with the largest increase in the 35-44 age group. The total number of farmers increased 3 percent during this period and now represents 17.5 percent of the provincial total.

TABLE 9

ABBOTSFORD AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

FARMS CLASSIFIED BY CAPITAL VALUE AND SALES-1981 CENSUS

Capital Value	Sales $250-2499	$2500-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
Less Than $10,000	1	2	1	-	4
$10,000-24,999	9	2	-	-	11
$25,000-49,999	12	9	2	2	25
$50,000-99,999	52	34	14	4	104
$100,000-199,999	303	160	55	18	536
$200,000-499,999	653	576	292	255	1,776
$500,000 AND OVER	71	127	167	675	1,040
TOTAL	1,101	910	531	954	3,496

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 10

TOTAL FARM CAPITAL BY FARM SALES, 1981: ABBOTSFORD DISTRICT

	$250-2499	$2500-9999	$10000-49999	$50000+	TOTAL
NUMBER OF FARMS	1,101	910	531	954	3,496
TOTAL CAPITAL VALUE	294,786,583	319,373,988	255,707,858	880,480,586	1,750,349,015
VALUE OF LAND & BUILDINGS	277,229,266	298,067,926	233,525,514	724,921,934	1,533,744,640
VALUE OF MACHINERY	12,999,025	14,331,741	13,685,826	70,635,211	111,651,803
VALUE OF LIVESTOCK-POULTRY	4,558,292	6,974,321	8,496,518	84,923,441	104,952,572
AVERAGE CAPITAL VALUE	267,744	350,960	481,159	922,936	
RATIO OF CAPITAL VALUE TO MIDDLE VALUE OF FARM SALES CLASS	194	56	16	12	

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE II

1983 SALES OF FARMS-SOUTH COASTAL REGION

Area Name	No. Pcls.	Hectares	Sale Price $000s	Value of Improvements	Residual Value	Actual Value	Assessment Sales Ratio	Mkt Value $/Hectare
Saanich	3	53	1,019	$140,500	$878,500	$164,294	0.187	16,517
Capital	1	1.7	115	10,250	104,750	4,536	0.043	64,159
Cowichan Valley	13	96	2,123	514,150	1,608,850	248,800	0.155	16,754
Nanaimo	3	21	379	12,100	366,900	94,400	0.257	17,362
Port Alberni	3	142	676	262,050	413,905	267,127	0.645	2,906
Courtenay	4	17	401	69,350	331,650	55,475	0.167	19,297
Sunshine Coast	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Shore	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vancouver	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Burnaby-New West	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Richmond-Delta	17	210	9,107	923,100	8,183,873	902,688	0.110	39,019
Coquitlam	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dewdney-Alouette	25	181	3,747	860,350	2,886,626	969,974	0.336	15,914
Surrey-White Rock	12	74	2,897	462,300	2,434,408	701,085	0.288	32,895
Lang/Mats/Abbots.	85	696	23,302	2,793,000	20,509,091	4,331,537	0.210	29,458
Chilliwack	29	131	4,018	1,199,150	2,818,576	671,898	0.238	21,550

Source: B.C. Assessment Authority.

TABLE 12

AVERAGE AGE OF FARMERS: ABBOTSFORD DISTRICT

	1976	1981	CHANGE
Under 25	42	62	+20
25 - 34	501	527	+26
35 - 44	843	1,019	+176
45 - 54	872	935	+63
55 - 59	345	349	+4
60- 64	267	261	-6
65 - 69	147	196	+49
70 & Over	174	147	-27
TOTAL	3,389	3,496	+107
TOTAL PERCENT OF B.C.	17.4	17.5	

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 13
ABBOTSFORD DISTRICT
FARM TAXFILER'S INCOME 1980.

	# of Farm Taxfilers	Average Gross Farm Income $'000s	Total Gross Farm Income $'000s	# Reporting Farm Net Income	Average Net Farm Income $	Total Net Farm Income $'000s	# Reporting Wages & Salaries	Average Wage & Salary $'000s	# Reporting Off Farm Income	Average Off Farm Income $'000s	Total Off Farm Income $'000s	Average Income All Sources $'000s	Total Income All Sources $'000s
Central Fraser Valley	3,315	49.3	163,479.2	3,270	121	401.1	1,920	12.3	3,218	18.5	61,271.2	18.6	61,672.3
Dewdney Alouette	755	45.8	34,610.7	747	28	21.1	491	14.1	741	20.6	15,551.5	20.6	15,572.6
Total Abbotsford	4,070	48.8	198,089.9	4,017	104	422.3	2,411		3,959	20.4	82,822.6	20.5	83,244.9

Source: Revenue Canada.

TABLE 14

OFF-FARM WORK BY FARM OPERATORS BY TYPE OF WORK & FARM SALES, 1981: ABBOTSFORD

	$250-1599	$1600-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
NUMBER OF FARMS	571	530	540	370	531	954	3,496
DAYS OF OFF-FARM WORK	76,214	76,237	72,635	48,364	52,653	43,733	369,836
FARMS REPORTING	349	332	328	223	271	229	1,732
AGRICULTURAL OFF-FARM WORK	4,486	6,367	7,773	5,989	11,417	18,545	54,577
FARMS REPORTING	37	37	46	38	73	96	327
NON-AGRICULTURAL OFF-FARM WORK	71,728	69,870	64,862	42,375	41,236	25,188	315,259
FARMS REPORTING	327	310	292	193	216	148	1,486

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 15
ABBOTSFORD AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
OFF FARM WORK BY FARM OPERATORS BY NUMBER OF DAYS AND FARM SALES-1981 CENSUS

	$250-1,599	$1,600-2,499	$2,500-4,999	$5,000-9,999	$10,000-49,000	$50,000+	TOTAL
1-6 Days	4	-	4	3	5	14	30
7-12	3	2	3	2	6	7	23
13-24	6	5	2	4	9	12	38
25-48	7	7	6	5	16	18	59
49-72	14	10	7	10	15	12	68
73-96	11	1	10	3	10	7	42
97-126	14	17	24	11	17	11	94
127-156	17	11	8	10	15	9	70
157-228	82	85	79	60	54	34	394
229-365	191	194	185	115	124	105	914
Total	349	332	328	223	271	229	1,732

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 16

HIRED AGRICULTURAL LABOUR BY FARM SALES, 1981: ABBOTSFORD

	$250-1599	$1600-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
NUMBER OF FARMS	571	530	540	370	531	954	3,496
TOTAL WEEKS OF HIRED LABOUR	1,033	1,309	1,247	2,802	14,247	109,174	129,812
FARMS REPORTING	78	59	107	121	297	773	1,435
WEEKS OF YEAR-ROUND LABOUR	420	977	628	989	3,483	64,996	71,493
FARMS REPORTING	18	12	25	32	80	491	658
WEEKS OF SEASONAL LABOUR	613	332	619	1,813	10,764	44,178	58,319
FARMS REPORTING	61	49	84	95	229	459	977

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 17

AGRICULTURE LAND DEVELOPMENT ACT WORK DONE, 1971 - 1982: ABBOTSFORD DISTRICT OFFICE AREA

	CLEARED			BROKEN			IRRIGATION	DRAINAGE	OTHER	TOTAL
Fiscal Year	Hectares	Cost/ Hectare $	Cost $'000	Hecatares	Cost/ Hectare $	Cost $'000	Cost $'000	Cost $'000	Cost $'000	$'000
1971/72	14	571	8	-	-	-	-	-----56--	---	81
1972/73	15	667	10	-	-	-	-	11	2	23
1973/74	41	597	24	-	-	-	39	40	11	114
1974/75	78	822	64	-	-	-	114	17	18	213
1975/76	85	402	34	12	323	4	35	51	7	131
1976/77	22	902	20	6	29	0.4	44	28	22	114
1977/78	35	1,222	43	15	321	5	13	34	14	108
1978/79	50	1,570	78	34	290	24	51	58	33	245
1979/80	53	1,693	90	21	1,173	25	191	243	49	598
1980/81	16	2,313	37	15	1,000	15	281	38	56	427

SOURCE: British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture and Food, A.L.D.A. Branch Records

TABLE 18

SPRAYING, DUSTING AND IRRIGATION, 1981: ABBOTSFORD

Spraying and Dusting (any)	802
Weed Control (Hec.)	5,617
Farms Reporting	637
For Insect Control (Hec.)	3,847
Farms Reporting	476
Irrigation - Total Area (Hec.)	4,110
Farms Reporting	363
Sprinkler System - Total Area (Hec.)	3,786
Farms Reporting	307

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 19

FERTILIZER USE, 1981: ABBOTSFORD

Total Area (hectares)	22,948
Tonnes	14,037
Total Cropland (Hec.)	10,010
Tonnes	7,890
Total Tame Hay (Hec.)	8,058
Tonnes	3,860
Total Improved Pasture (Hec.)	4,880
Tonnes	2,287

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

ABBOTSFORD: AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

Horticulture

Horticulture is the most remunerative sector in Mainland agriculture. District field vegetable receipts were valued at $7.2 million in 1981. Field vegetable receipts accounted for 23 percent of the provincial total. Small fruit accounted for $17 million, 45 percent of the B.C. crop. In 1981, approximately 12 percent of provincial vegetable/small fruit acreage was in the Abbotsford District. Agricultural holdings with sales greater than $10,000 account for 53 percent of vegetable/small fruit area. Tree fruit accounted for $175,000 in 1981 receipts, apple cultivation represents more than 43 percent of tree fruit area in the district.

Field Crops

Crop sales in 1981 were valued at $270,000 made up primarily of wheat and barley. Only 3 percent of holding reported field crop production as their primary activity in 1981. Demand exceeds local production of high protein feed, as a result some operators are becoming self-sufficient in hay. However, the trend among dairy farmers towards smaller areas per cow is resulting in heavier reliance on corn silage as well as higher hay requirements. Cereals are grown almost exclusively as companion or nurse crops with new forage seedlings, and are taken off as green feed or silage.

Specialty Crops

Floriculture/nursery receipts totalled $16 million in 1981, 32 percent B.C. nursery output. Hothouse vegetables were valued at $9.3 million, one third of provincial hothouse production. Over 16 percent of agricultural holdings reported miscellaneous specialty as their primary activity, the majority of which have sales less than $10,000.

Livestock and Related Products

Sales of livestock and products for 1981 were valued at $182 million or 71 percent of total farm cash receipts. Dairy products accounted for more than $72 million of this total, 34 percent of provincial dairy output. Total cattle herd size increased by 11 percent to 86,000 head over the period 1976-81. In 1981, cattle production was the primary activity of 32 percent of operators, more than 79 percent of these holdings had sales less than $10,000.

Hog production has experienced considerable expansion over several consecutive years, the hog population increased 365 percent during the period 1976-81. Sheep production is small and fluctuating, the census reported just under 9,000 head in 1981.

The 1981 census recorded 6.2 million chickens, down from 6.4 million in 1976. Over 45 percent of poultry operations have sales less than $10,000.

TABLE 20

ESTIMATE OF FARM CASH RECEIPTS, 1981

ABBOTSFORD AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

COMMODITY	FARM CASH RECEIPTS $'000	PERCENTAGE	PERCENTAGE OF B.C. OUTPUT
Wheat	193.18	0.08	2.19
Oats	8.43	0.00	0.29
Barley	56.82	0.02	0.69
CWB Payments	0.00	0.00	0.00
Canola	11.81	0.00	0.57
Potatoes	338.56	0.13	1.84
Small Fruits	16,951.30	6.63	44.45
Field Vegetables	6,834.77	2.67	23.43
Floriculture/Nursery	16,160.30	6.32	31.56
Forest Prod.	32.53	0.01	1.39
Cattle & Calves	3,743.23	1.46	3.05
Income Ins.	544.42	0.21	
Hogs	21,488.40	8.41	41.38
Income Ins.	38.89	0.02	
Sheep	348.62	0.14	13.22
Income Ins.	20.49	0.01	
Poultry & Eggs	83,972.80	32.85	62.28
Income Ins.	31.14	0.01	
Dairy Products	72,804.80	28.48	33.54
C.D.C. Subsidy	2,906.80	1.14	
Honey	103.54	0.04	2.03
Tree Fruit	174.52	0.07	0.32
Income Ins.	74.57	0.03	
Hothouse	9,334.79	3.65	32.22
Income Ins.	327.66	0.13	
Other	19,088.60	7.47	27.92
TOTAL	255,591.00		

SOURCE: Ministry of Agriculture and Food, 1983.

TABLE 21

AREA IN FIELD CROPS BY FARM SALES, 1981: ABBOTSFORD-IN HECTARES

	$250-1599	$1600-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
Number of Farms	571	530	540	370	531	954	3,496
Flaxseed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canola	-	81	-	-	-	65	146
Farms Reporting	-	1	-	-	-	1	2
Tame Hay - Total	546	588	782	975	111	9,818	14,819
Farms Reporting	171	168	192	151	187	440	1,309
Alfalfa and Mixtures	22	30	22	48	122	414	658
Farms Reporting	7	6	6	6	8	18	51
Other Tame Hay	524	557	760	928	1,989	9,404	14,161
Farms Reporting	165	163	186	148	181	430	1,273
Oats for Fodder	6.9	21	8.5	19	72	566	693
Farms Reporting	4	15	6	11	17	84	137
Other Fodder Crops	35	38	104	31	19	514	742
Farms Reporting	13	6	10	7	5	36	77

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 22

ABBOTSFORD AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

AREA OF VEGETABLES ON FARMS, IN HECTARES- 1981 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

	$250-1,599	$1,600-2,499	$2,500-4,999	$5,000-9,999	$10,000-49,999	$50,000+	TOTAL
Number of Farms	571	530	540	370	531	954	3,496
Vegetables	53	4.4	25	45	214	1,507	1,848
Farms Reporting	21	17	18	17	34	59	166
Asparagus	0.04	0.12	0.04	0.04	-	-	0.24
Farms Reporting	1	2	1	1	-	-	5
Beans	0.16	0.12	0.41	0.61	5.3	11	18
Farms Reporting	4	4	3	5	3	5	24
Beets	0.12	0.2	0.41	0.45	0.61	2.4	4.2
Farms Reporting	3	4	3	3	2	3	18
Broccoli	2.6	0.12	3.3	8.8	43	537	595
Farms Reporting	4	3	4	7	12	33	63
Cabbage	1.7	0.16	1.3	0.69	3.0	34	41
Farms Reporting	4	4	4	4	4	8	26
Carrots	1.1	0.16	0.49	0.61	3.9	12	18
Farms Reporting	6	4	5	5	3	4	27
Cauliflower	0.45	0.12	0.08	4.7	21	298	325
Farms Reporting	2	3	2	4	10	27	48
Cucumbers	0.08	0.16	0.81	1.9	2.0	16	21
Farms Reporting	2	4	5	6	1	10	28
Green Peas	7.9	0.16	0.12	8.7	80	93	190
Farms Reporting	3	4	3	4	7	6	27
Lettuce	0.08	0.12	0.12	0.45	-	25	26
Farms Reporting	2	3	3	3	-	3	14
Onions (Dry)	0.04	0.04	0.08	0.24	2.0	15	17
Farms Reporting	1	1	2	2	2	2	10
Rutabagas	-	-	-	0.12	-	2.4	2.5
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
Sweet Corn	30	1.2	9.2	14	13	163	230
Farms Reporting	10	10	15	9	4	15	63
Tomatoes	0.12	0.24	4.4	0.57	0.61	2.0	8.0
Farms Reporting	3	6	3	4	2	4	22
Other Vegetables	8.5	1.4	4.6	3.1	40	291	349
Farms Reporting	9	10	6	6	15	26	72

TABLE 23

ABBOTSFORD AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

AREA IN SMALL FRUITS BY FARM SALES IN HECTARES-1981 CENSUS

	$250-1,599	$1,600-2,499	$2,500-4,999	$5,000-9,999	$10,000-49,999	$50,000+	TOTAL
Number of Farms	571	530	540	370	531	954	3,496
Small Fruits	209	50	68	113	629	1,411	2,480
Farms Reporting	54	39	41	46	137	107	424
Strawberries	31	16	19	42	173	505	786
Farms Reporting	21	14	12	17	56	59	179
Grapes	0.08	0.2	0.04	1.2	17	12	31
Farms Reporting	1	2	1	3	2	1	10
Other Berries	179	33	49	70	438	926	1,696
Farms Reporting	41	28	34	34	112	98	347

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 24
ABBOTSFORD AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
AREA IN TREE FRUITS BY FARM SALES IN HECTARES-1981 CENSUS

	250-1,599	$1,600-2,499	$2,500-4,999	$5,000-9,999	$10,000-49,999	$50,000+	TOTAL
Number of Farms	571	530	540	370	531	954	3,496
Tree Fruits	6.8	7.1	7.5	2.9	6.4	6.6	37
Farms Reporting	12	14	11	5	5	4	51
Apple	2.4	4.2	3.7	1.5	3.7	0.41	16
Farms Reporting	12	14	11	4	4	3	48
No. of Apple Trees	401	533	1,109	788	1,015	137	3,983
Pear	0.89	0.61	0.57	0.04	0.32	0.04	2.5
Farms Reporting	8	10	9	1	3	1	32
Number of Pear Trees	43	42	103	4	34	6	232
Plum and Prune	1.1	0.53	2.5	0.08	0.2	0.04	4.5
Farms Reporting	9	8	10	2	1	1	31
Number of Trees	104	35	188	16	20	2	365
Cherry (Sweet)	0.81	0.49	0.28	0.04	0.04	-	1.7
Farms Reporting	9	8	7	1	1	-	26
No. of Cherry Trees	38	39	24	50	1	-	152
Cherry (Sour)	0.45	0.45	0.2	0.04	2.1	6.2	9.4
Farms Reporting	5	6	5	1	2	2	21
Number of Trees	28	18	9	36	501	1,505	2,097
Peach	0.53	0.53	0.16	-	-	-	1.2
Farms reporting	5	6	4	-	-	-	15
No. of Peach Trees	13	51	10	-	-	-	74
Apricot	0.53	0.36	0.12	1.2	-	-	2.2
Farms reporting	5	4	3	1	-	-	13
No. of Apricot Trees	11	11	5	20	-	-	47

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 25
ABBOTSFORD AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
AREA IN SPECIALTY CROPS BY FARM SALES IN HECTARES-1981 CENSUS

	$250-2,499	$2,500-9,999	$10,000-49,999	$50,000+	TOTAL
Number of Farms	1,101	910	531	954	3,496
Nusery Products	25	33	95	239	393
Farms Reporting	22	24	24	36	106
Greenhouse Sq. Metres	6,612	8,996	36,533	197,431.	249,572
Farms Reporting	46	32	46	57	181

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 26
ABBOTSFORD AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
LIVESTOCK NUMBERS BY FARM SALES-1981 CENSUS

	$250-2,499	$2,500-9,999	$10,000-49,999	$50,000+	TOTAL
Number of Farms	1,101	910	531	954	3,496
Cattle-Total Number	6,030	10,154	10,395	59,714	86,293
Farms Reporting	709	642	294	603	2,248
Cows-Total Number	1,766	3,123	3,060	29,127	37,076
Farms Reporting	475	444	200	507	1,626
Dairy Cows-Number	576	471	1,230	27,666	29,943
Farms Reporting	149	130	97	411	787
Beef Cows-Number	1,190	2,652	1,830	1,461	7,133
Farms Reporting	362	352	123	120	957
Heifers-Total Number	1,251	2,069	2,511	12,585	18,416
Farms Reporting	414	407	212	479	1,512
Steers-Number	862	1,325	1,223	4,591	8,001
Farms Reporting	319	307	142	163	931
Bulls-Number	234	306	197	462	1,199
Farms Reporting	125	173	103	239	640
Calves-Number	1,917	3,331	3,404	12,949	21,601
Farms Reporting	504	487	228	522	1,741
Pigs-Total Number	672	3,380	9,059	92,455	105,466
Farms Reporting	117	74	38	83	312
Sheep-Total Number	2,985	2,962	1,616	1,293	8,856
Farms Reporting	146	90	35	48	319
Horses-Number	1,184	1,465	949	696	4,294
Farms Reporting	313	274	112	142	841

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 27
ABBOTSFORD AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
POULTRY NUMBERS BY FARM SALES-1981 CENSUS

	250-2,499	$2,500-9,999	$10,000-49,999	$50,000+	TOTAL
Number of Farms	1,101	910	531	954	3,496
Hens/Chickens Total No.	101,657	62,264	158,016	5,890,187	6,212,124
Farms Reporting	522	347	139	321	1,329
Turkeys-Number	311	6,576	27,677	332,492	367,056
Farms Reporting	36	19	11	27	93
Geese-Number	758	573	6,134	100	75,565
Farms Reporting	107	79	18	16	220
Ducks-Number	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Farms Reporting	194	110	35	37	376

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

APPENDIX

TERMS USED IN THE CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

Census-farm areas

The area of census-farms reported for each subdivision represents the area of land operated by farmers whose headquarters are in the subdivision.

Crown lands, usually pasture land, which were operated under a lease agreement with federal, provincial or municipal governments, are reported as part of the farming operation of the person to whom the land was leased. However, land which was used under a per head grazing permit or fee is not included.

Large areas of timber land or other non-agricultural land held by the operator, but operated apart from the farm business, are excluded.

Use of Land

All farm land is classified according to use under two major divisions: improved and unimproved land.

Improved Land

1) Crop land - Included in this item is the total area of crop land sown for harvest in the census year. Crop land includes the total area of all field crops, plus the areas of fruits, vegetables, greenhouses, mushroom houses and nursery products. Because some crops are reported in fractions of a hectare, there may be slight differences between the sum of the individual crop areas and the total crop land.

2) Improved pasture - All land which was being used for pasture or grazing and which has had some improvements made to it in recent years is included. Improvements would include cultivation, drainage, irrigation, fertilization, seeding down or spraying.

3) Summer fallow - The enumerator was instructed to include in this item land from which no crop was to be harvested during the census year, but which was to be cultivated or worked during the year for weed control and/or for moisture conservation.

4) Other improved land - This item includes the area of barnyards, home gardens, lanes and roads on farms. It also includes areas of cultivated land that were lying idle, being neither summer-fallowed nor cropped, and areas of new breaking that had not been seeded to a crop.

Unimproved Land

The area of unimproved land consists of the total areas reported for 1) woodland and 2) other unimproved land.

1) Woodland - This includes farm woodlots, land leased for cutting, sugar bush and cut-over land with young growth which has or will have value as timber, fuelwood or Christmas trees. The area of tress planted for wind-breaks was also to be included. It excludes large timber tracts which are run as a separate business from the farm. There is some evidence that changes in the area of this item between censuses may be due to differences in interpretation. This would be particularly true in areas of bushland.

2) Other unimproved land - Areas of native pasture or hay land that had not been cultivated, bush pasture, grazing or waste land, sloughs, marsh and rocky land et cetera, are all included in this item.

TERMS USED IN LAND CAPABILITY RATINGS

Class 1	land is capable of producing the very widest range of vegetables, cereal grains, forages, berry fruits and numerous specialty crops. Soil and climatic conditions are opitimum.
Class 2	land is capable of producing a wide range of regional crops as above with some differences in variety due to minor restrictions of soils and climate.
Class 3	land is capable of producing a fairly wide range of regional crops under good management practices. Soils and/or climate limitations are somewhat restrictive.
Class 4	land is capable of a restricted range of regional crops such as hardy cereal grains, hardy vegetables, and forages. Soil and climate limitations demand special management considerations.
Class 5	land is capable of production of perennial forage crops only. Soil and/or climate restrictions severely limit the land's capability.
Class 6	land is natural rangeland. Soil and/or climate limitations preclude cultivation, but the land may be important in its natural state as grazing land.
Class 7	land has no agricultural capability whatsoever.
UNIMPROVED	These figures are derived from the Canada Land Inventory dry-farm ratings. They do not reflect either present land use or the state of readiness for cultivation, but only the potential capability if used for agriculture.
IMPROVED	These figures are derived from the Canada Land Inventory irrigated ratings. They reflect the capabitity for agriculture if the land unit were irrigated and/or drained. They do not indicate whether the land unit is presently either irrigated or drained.
WATER SURFACES	This category includes all non-seasonal lakes and rivers. It also includes that part of the Strait of Georgia, between Vancouver Island and the Mainland , that falls within latitudes 49 N to 51 N.
OTHER	This category includes all regions of the province that were not mapped due to limited agricultural potential, national parks, and unmapped urban areas.

South Coastal Region

District Office:

205 - 33780 Laurel Street
Abbotsford, B.C.
V2S 1X4

Telephone: 859-5281

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